Mr. Brian Bates
24239 Linnea Court
Moreno Valley CA 92553

3/31/91

Dear Mr. Bates,

The list of my books for which you asked is enclosed. However, the rest of your letter troubles me because you intend to evolve what "will be used in history classrooms to teach this important historical incident" and what you reflect in your letter leads me to believe that you will not be able to do that responsinly because, while you are skeptical of some of the conspiracy-theorizing books you cannot evaluate others.

Almost no books on the JFK assassination are restricted entirely to fact. "Rush to Judgement " pretty much was but that was Lane's last contact with reality and he angled that as most cannot perceive. For example, in his supposed verbatim use of the Warren Commission volumes he eliminates the names of virtually all counsel, which are in the verbatim transcripts, substituting "counsel" as I recall. But he does not do this with Warren and Rankin so the reader's anger is focused on them only and the rest of the staff is exculpated.

Sylvia Meagher's "Accessories after the Fact" and Howard Roffman's "Presumed Guilty" are two superb books but they have not been available for years.

But the rest are flawed in various ways and magnitude and seriousness. Some are very persuasive, Lifton's in particular, but you are not in a position to evaluate his honesty. If you were familiar with the earlier substantial and factual books you'd have perceived that all that is factual in his book and for which he takes credit as the discoverer was published many years earlier and he takes personal credit for the work of others. And if you were familiar with the established fact of the assassination you'd know that his theory is at each step impossible. For example, in addressing his integrity, you will I believe remembed that he says that the body was switched from the casket in which it left Dallas and when it got to the Navy hospital it was in a body bag. His theory begins with a statement in the FBI's Sibert-O'Neill report that there had been surgery on the head. Yet in so large a book he did not include this report. The reason is clear if you have that report. I reproduce it in facsimile in "Post Mortem." In the same paragraph in which these agents make an inccorect reference to surgery of the head they say that they helped remove the body from the casket in which it had been transported from Dallas and that it was wrapped in sheets, not a body bag.

I wish I could take more time but I'm almost 79, in seriously impaired health and there are too many limitations on me now. But I do not know how even with the help of your history teacher you can research Stone's "JFK." It is based on two of the worst and least factual assassination books. Garrison's, which is knowingly dishonest - as Garrison knew and intended - and Marrs' compendium of all the nutty theories when he was so ignorant he did not know what he was writing about even relating to them!

Two months before he started shooting, when I learned that Stone was basing his movie on Garrison's disgraceful rewriting of his own fiasco and Stone said he would be recording their "history" for the people, telling them "who" killed their President, "why" and "how," I wrote him in some detail. I gave him a full account of the deliberate dishonesty of the Garrison book and of several ghastly misrepresentations in it. I had been asked by some of his staff to try to prevent his planned commemoration of the fifth assassination anniversary after they had failed. Two of the incidents of which I told Stone truthfully and in detail were about Garrison's "assassins" he was going to charge.

To abort his planned atrocity I had to investigate what he called "the tramp pictures," because on the basis of them alone he was going to charge a man he did not like and imagined is in those pictures with being an assassin. He had nothing else. And as the Dallas police records recently confirmed, I was correct in saying that they had no connection with the assassination at all, were merely winos drinking it up when they were found in a parked railroad boxcar a block west of the scene and two and a half south of it about an hour and a half later.

Garrison also planned to charge as another assassin the former husband of Nancy Perrin Rich, Robert L. Perrin - even though he knew that Perrin had killed himself in New Orleans more than a year earlier.

Stone never replied, never had any interest in having access that I give to all writers to the quarter of a million pages I got from the government, formerly withheld records disclosed to me by court compulsion in a series of Freedom of Information lawsuits. At the same time Stone was propagandizing his movie with the false allegation that "all" official records were withheld until at least the year 2039. Sometimes when he could lie no longer he moderated this some until just before his movie was released he got closer to the truth for it.

Stone himself remains so ignorant of the fact of the assassinatio he had to be prompted by assistants when he was to appear on Nightline. The satellite carried that and I have a transcript of it. He even asked what he should say about JFK's fatal shot!

But to simplify this for you, how factual do you think Stone intended to be when he knew all these records were available to him, did not want to see a page of them and then lied repeatedly about their being suppressed; and how factual and honest did he intend to be when he was silent in response to my letter warning him before he started shooting?

He told one of his theorizing assistants that he was really using the JFK assassination as a vehicle for saying what he wanted to say about Viet Nam. So for that he did not need to know a single <u>fact</u> about the assassination and went with the incredible lies and nuttiness he knew he could make attractive and did.

If this seems harsh or exaggerated to you I suggest that you and/or your teacher get in touch with Dr. David Wrone, professor of history at the Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens

Point, WI, home address 1518 Blackberry Lane, both zips 54481. He is the coauthor of the only professional bibliography in the field. I am confident that he will confirm what I say and tell you that it is not in any way exaggerated.

Stone has gotten enormous attention and free publicity for his claim that the CIA started and fed the stories exposing him and his film but he knew very well how big a lie that was. When he ignored my letter of 2/8/91 and I was given a copy of the script (about which he lies in saying it was stolen, which it wasn't, and that I was selling copies, which I didn't), I gave the script and access to my relevant records to the reporter who is the best-informed on the JFK assassination, George Lardner, of the Washington Post, and, as I'd hoped because I am so limited, that responsible and accurate expose led to those that followed. It was not the CIA, it was me. What a commercializer Stone is as well as a liar! He saw he could get away with pretending to be persecuted so he made that false pretense.

If you are ever in this area you are welcome to access to the records I got under FOIA and the file I am making for history on Stone and his bastard of a movie. That file is about a full drawer now.

What you say you want to do it really great, much needed. But if you can't be your own devil's advocate, if you don't spend the enormous amount of time required to learn what is and is not factual and how to identify all that is not fact represented as factual, you will evolve what will deceive and mislead those who use it, as Stone does with his movie. As Garrison did with his book, etc.

Good luck!

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg